

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [20] of the originally filed patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

A read request 102 that is received from the storage system (not shown), in which system 100 is contained, is passed to sorter 106. Sorter 106 sorts each read request 102 in a well-known manner into a Segment (that is, a region of the array of storage devices 110-120 corresponding to the block address of the requested data), an Offset within the segment, a Length, and a Disk (i.e., data disk A, B or C), collectively referred to herein by the acronym SOLD. Each SOLD is then passed from sorter 106 to assigner 108. Assigner 108 selects the best pathway to the data identified by the SOLD. Assigner 108 also passes a determination for satisfying a SOLD to combiner 122 as a state update information 124. Combiner 122 reconstructs the data identified by the SOLD from the results received from storage devices 110-120, and a satisfied request 126 is passed back to the storage system that is external to system 100. Combiner 122 also provides feedback information 128 to assigner 108.